An "Irresponsible Crusader" Analyzes the "Responsible Pronouncements" of Louis Nizer

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Nizer on WNCA radio 9/30/66

Let me give you perhaps the most dramatic illustration. Some of these writers and lecturers point to a document....dated two weeks before President Kennedy was assassinated, and which asks the military forces to begin rehearsals for a presidential funeral ...Obviously, if there were any plot to kill the President you wouldn't advertise it through such a notification. Nevertheless, this document is used in some quarters.

Nizer

Let me give you another quick illustration...The argument has been made that the glass in front of the car...was pierced from the front, therefore the bullet must have gone from the overpass...not from the rear of the building where Oswald was.

Nizer

There was some of the silver plate from the bullet, or whatever it was--metal...

Nizer

There was a theory that this gun could not have been fired within the time.

The Facts

Nizer was asked to comment on "the books that are appearing now" (i.e. Inquest by Epstein, The Oswald Affair by Sauvage, Whitewash by Weisberg, Rush to Judgment by Lane, Forgive My Grief by Jones, and The Second Oswald by Popkin).

Not one of those books even mention the funeral rehearsal. The only publication to dignify it is the Warren Report (p. 668). So much for Nizer's "most dramatic illustration."

The Facts

Richard Dudman of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch published an article in The New Republic in December 1963 reporting that he had seen an apparent bullet hole in the windshield of the Presidential car. Not a single critic has raised questions about the windshield damage since the Warren Report was issued in 1964.

The Facts

It was lead. Silver bullets are used only to shoot vampires, as any child knows.

The Facts

True. As all or most of the critics have pointed out, the Warren Report indicates that the President was shot

Nizer

Experts in these guns took that same gun up to the 6th floor of the Trade Mart building...

with a skull of the President's size and of the same strength...

and bullets were fired from that same gun, from that same distance, within the time specified, and struck that skull and split it open in precisely the same way...

Nizer

There was a story that the gun was a certain kind of a make--a Carbonieri or a Mowser...It turned out not to be that...

The Facts (continued)

between frames 210 and 225 of the Zapruder film, and the Governor not later than frame 240. There are fro 15 to 30 frames between the wounding of the two men, while 42 frames must elapse between two separate shots from the Carcano rifle (2.3 seconds are needed to operate the bolt, or, since the camera operated at 18.2 frames per second, 42 frames). The ingenious single-missile theory of one bullet hitting both men tried to dispose of the problem of insuffi-cient time; but that theory is now discredited in the light of a body of hitherto-unknown FBI documents which conflict with the autopsy findings. Nizer has failed to address himself to this major criticism of the Warren Report.

The Facts

FBI experts took the Carcano rifle to the southeast corner window of the 6th floor of the Depository.

No; not a skull, but two FBI stand-ins for the President and the Governor.

No; photographs, not bullets, were shot (on-site reenactment of 5/24/64) Elsewhere and at another time wound-penetration tests were conducted at Edgewood Arsenal. Still other tests were conducted, by the FBI, and by 3 master riflemen at the Aberdeen Rang which demonstrated that rifle champi could not match the feat attributed Oswald, conceded by a Marine colonel not to be a good shot (WR p. 191).

Mr. Nizer has combined the three ser of tests into a gruesome and wholly nonsensical composite.

The Facts

The rifle was first said to be a 7.65 MM. Mauser (not "Mowser") and later a 6.5 MM. Mannlicher-Carcano (not "Carbonieri;" Nizer seems to have confused the rifle with an Italian secret society, the Carbonari). The Warren Report gives an incomplete and misleading explanation of the mis identification, blaming Deputy Constable

Nizer

Anyone who has really read these 20 volumes of testimony could go on for hours, to demonstrate the authenticity of the Report...

Nizer

Now, the Warren Commission ...examined every witness.

Nizer

A thread was found on the gun. It was traced to the shirt he was wearing that day, by outstanding experts.

Nizer

He kept it (the rifle) in a crib and it was covered with a quilt.

Nizer

When the FBI arrived...only 40 minutes later...

Nizer

He walked up there...placing himself carefully with a microscopic sight--that's what made his aim so good, he was able to place his back against a support...

The Facts (continued)

Seymour Weitzman alone. The official record shows that Deputy Sheriff Eugene Boone also identified the rifle, in writing, as a Mauser. So did Captain Fritz, according to Boone's testimony.

The Facts

Anyone who has really read the volumes knows that there are 26, not 20, and that the Warren Report repeatedly misstates and misrepresents their contents.

The Facts

Except more than 68 important witnesses described in the article "Notes for a New Investigation" in the December 1966 Esquire.

The Facts

FBI fiber expert Stombaugh was the only expert who testified on this question He said that the fibers on the rifle could have come from the shirt, not that they did. The Warren Report states that they "most probably" came from the shirt (WR p. 125), not going so far as Nizer. But Commission lawyer Liebeler said in writing that the fiber evidence was extremely "thin" (Inquest, p. 140). And the Commission omitted from the Report the fact that fibers on the rifle did not match fibers in the blanket, possibly indicating that the blanket had not contained the rifle (Ibid., p. 140).

The Facts

And his baby on the floor of the garage?

The Facts

The Dallas police arrived, about two hours later.

The Facts

It was a telescopic sight, so defective that 3 shims had to be inserted before the rifle could be used in the Aberdeen tests. The bolt and the trigger as well as the scope were defective and gave the master riflemen considerable difficulty.

The Facts (continued)

As for the alleged back support, one need only look at page 99 of the Doubleday edition of the Warren Report (the one burdened by Mr. Nizer's inaccurate and rapturous introduction) to see that the assertion is mere nonsense.

Nizer

Congressman Kupferman is an able man.

The Facts

True. And he has asked for a reevaluation of the Warren Report and if need be a new investigation of the assassination, in the light of the serious and responsible criticism published. So have many other respected and competent people (Richard Goodwin, Andrew Hoyland, Herbert Lipson, Kenneth Auchincloss, Norman Mailer, Stanley Plastrik, Francis Russell, the editors of the London Economist and Times, LIFE; Rep. Ky Tom Wicker, Max Lerner, Cyril Connally Alistair Cooke, Alexander Bickel, Eliot Fremont-Smith, Loudon Wainright Edward Keating, Bishop Pike, Harrison Salisbury, and William Buckley).

Nizer

Let him read the 20 (sic) volumes and the Report itself...That's what I would suggest to him.

The Facts

Only a man of towering ignorance, prejudice, effrontery, and inability to admit personal error, would assume that Congressman Kupferman had tabled a Joint Resolution without first studying the evidence. Let Mr. Nizer practice what he preaches, since patently he is unfamiliar with the Hearings and Exhibits and the Warren Report itself. Let him read and answer the charges of the critics instead of "assailing" them ignorant as "an outrage" (N.Y. Times, 11/17/66).

His defense of the Warren Report, filled as it is with wild and comical garbling of the elementary facts, is crude and irresponsible partisanship and a disservice to the public, which may assume that he speaks with authority

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